
March 7, 2020

Too Modern or Not Enough? Asian Figures of Linguistic Modernity

Angela Reyes (CUNY Hunter College)

Time: 11am - 12noon

Venue: Room S737, Borough of Manhattan Community College, 199 Chambers Street, New York, NY 10007

How is colonialism understood as persisting in the absence of formal colonial rule? How do notions of language, race, and modernity inform this concern? This talk considers questions of postcoloniality that connect across two decades of ethnographic research I conducted with Asian communities in the U.S. and the Philippines: from Southeast Asian American high school students in Philadelphia, to Korean American middle school students in New York City, to Filipino college students in Manila. Bringing together the Bakhtinian concept of "voice" and the Goffmanian concept of "figure," I explore how colonial hierarchies are reconstituted through the invention of internal others against which a desirable social location is implicitly established. This is accomplished through the formation and circulation of figures of personhood and language that are regarded as either insufficiently or overly modern.

Notes:

- This is a different room from last semester!
- **All attendees will be asked to show some form of ID in order to enter the college.**
- Attendees are invited to join the speaker for lunch at a nearby restaurant afterward (at their own expense).
- There will be a meeting of the ILA's Executive Board from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. on the same day (N499).